

INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS

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RESIDENT ALASKA TRAPPERS PROTECTED FROM OUTSIDERS

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Fur resources in Alaska are to be conserved for territorial residents according to an order issued by the Secretary of Agriculture.

The export of skins of fur-bearing animals from Alaska constitutes the third most important territorial resource, the total value of such shipments amounting to more than \$2,000,000 annually, according to the U. S. Biological Survey.

Approximately 8,000 resident trappers, both native and white, have been affected in recent years by an influx of non-residents encroaching on the native industry.

The new order provides that non-residents of Alaska must reside within the territory for three years before being eligible for resident trapping privileges. Previously the residence requirement had been one year. The non-resident trapping fee is \$50.00. The resident fee is \$2.00. Non-resident hunting privileges will not be affected by the order.

Fur-bearing animals are probably more numerous in Alaska than in any State or possession of the United States, the Biological Survey says. Breeding stock consistent with the number of animals trapped annually can be maintained only by wise management.

Officials of the Survey believe the restriction on non-resident trappers will aid in assuring native trappers a constant source of livelihood, at the same time helping to perpetuate a valuable natural resource of Alaska.

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